

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 03482 080934Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 EB-08 ICA-20
COME-00 TRSE-00 EA-12 /070 W
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R 070935Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
SECSTATE WASHDC 2528

UNCLAS KATHMANDU 3482

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AFIN, OCON
SUBJECT: FAO/WFP FIELD PROJECTS

REF: ROME 12267

1. EMBASSY AND USAID/NEPAL WOULD WELCOME PROPOSED VISIT BY US
REP. BAKER AS PER SCHEDULE REFTEL. FROM INTERNAL MISSION
STANDPOINT, DATES ARE FINE, WITH AMBASSADOR, AID MISSION
DIRECTOR AND AID AGRICULTURE DIVISION CHIEF ALL SCHEDULED TO
BE IN TOWN.

2. ON UN SIDE, UNDP RESREP MELFORD AND HIS DEPUTY WILL BOTH
BE PRESENT. BOTH ARE NEW ARRIVALS WITHIN LAST SEVERAL
MONTHS. (MELFORD, HOWEVER, DOES HAVE ADVANTAGE OF HAVING BEEN
HERE 12 YEARS AGO WITH FAO.) UNFORTUNATELY BOTH FAO REP AND
WFP ADVISOR WILL BE OUT OF COUNTRY FOR DATES PROPOSED. IN
EACH CASE THERE WILL BE A STAND IN, BUT CLEARLY NOT WITH THE
SAME DEPTH OF KNOWLEDGE.

3. AS FOR GON, MOST OF NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
MEMBERS ANTICIPATE BEING IN TOWN. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE,
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HOWEVER, PLANS REMAIN IN MALAYSIA AFTER FAO CONFERENCE
RETURNING ONLY AUGUST 10 OR 11. MINISTRY SECRETARY WILL
BE PRESENT. HE WILL HAVE BEEN WITH THE AGRICULTURE
MINISTRY ONLY THREE MONTHS AS OF EARLY AUGUST.

4. FINALLY, ON THE SUBJECT OF VISITING PROJECTS, MONSOON
SEASON IS NOT THE BEST TIME FOR FIELD TRIPS. MANY AREAS

ARE CLOSED TO AIR SERVICE DUE TO WEATHER-- AND OF COURSE,
CHARTER FLIGHTS ARE IN ANY CASE EXPENSIVE. THERE ARE,
HOWEVER, BOTH WFP AND FAO PROJECTS WHICH CAN BE VISITED
EVEN IF UNDER LESS IDEAL AND PERHAPS MORE RESTRICTED
CONDITIONS THAN IN WINTER SEASON. WE FEEL CERTAIN THAT
REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAM COULD BE SET UP.

5. IN SUM, PROPOSED DATES FOR BAKER VISIT, WHILE NOT
IDEAL IN TERMS OF HIS OBJECTIVES, ARE QUITE WORKABLE
AND ARE FINE FOR US. PLEASE ADVISE FINAL DECISION.
HECK

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